

- (C) means for transmitting a portion of the information in the database to the user via the link upon receipt of a request signal representative of a selected category and geographic vicinity, the transmitted portion of the information including identification of a position for each of the items of interest within the selected category and geographic vicinity and relative to the positional coordinates and other items of interest within the vicinity, and
- (D) a port for remotely accessing the portion of information via the link, the port generating the request signal in response to inputs by the user which are representative of the selected category and geographic vicinity, the port having a user interface for accepting the inputs and for indicating to the user the position of each of the items of interest in the selected category and geographic vicinity.
2. System according to claim 1 wherein the link comprises at least one of the following: a telephone link, satellite link, radio-frequency link, infra-red link, internet link, facsimile link, fiber-optic link, coaxial cable link and television link.
3. System according to claim 1 wherein the database is selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, mainframe, work-station, mini-computer, and a digital data processor.
4. System according to claim 1 wherein the user interface further comprises a member of the group consisting of a television, telephone, facsimile, audible speaker, and personal computer display, for indicating information to the user.
5. System according to claim 1 wherein the user interface further comprises a member of the group consisting of a television interface, telephone interface, facsimile interface, and personal computer interface, for communicating the inputs to the port.
6. System according to claim 1 wherein the geographic vicinity comprises spatial detail of the items of interest.
7. System according to claim 1 wherein the geographic vicinity comprises a map of the items of interest in the selected category and selected geographic vicinity.
8. System according to claim 1, further comprising means for interpreting the inputs by the user and for formulating the inputs into the request signal.
9. System according to claim 1, further comprising means for interpreting certain of the inputs as items of interest and for transposing such inputs into a selected category automatically.
10. System according to claim 1, wherein the set of positional coordinates comprises a location of a user of the system.
11. System according to claim 1, wherein the set of positional coordinates comprises information identifying a destination location within the geographic vicinity.
12. System according to claim 1, further comprising data representing the information.
13. System according to claim 1, wherein the information comprises additional detail for at least one of the items of interest, and further comprising means for selecting and communicating the additional detail to the user.
14. System according to claim 13, wherein the additional detail is selected from the group of video, prerecorded music, and digital pictures.
15. System according to claim 1, wherein the information comprises an advertisement associated with at least one of the items of interest, and further comprising means for communicating the advertisement to the user.
16. System according to claim 1, wherein the information comprises a plurality of discrete geographic vicinities, and

further comprising means for hierarchically selecting any of the discrete vicinities from the port.

17. Database apparatus for storing information about a plurality of items of interest, the information including, for each of the items of interest, a geographic vicinity, positional coordinates locating the geographic vicinity, and at least one associated category, comprising

(A) a communications link for communicating between a user of the database apparatus and a remote port, and

(B) means for transmitting a portion of the information to the user via the link upon receipt of a request signal representative of a geographic vicinity and a selected category of the items of interest, the transmitted portion of the information including identification of a position for each of the items of interest within the selected category and geographic vicinity, the position for each of the items of interest within the selected category and geographic vicinity being defined relative to the positional coordinates and other items of interest within the selected category and geographic vicinity.

18. Database apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the link comprises at least one of the following: telephone link, satellite link, radio-frequency link, infra-red link, internet link, facsimile link, fiber-optic link, coaxial cable link, television link, and combinations thereof.

19. Database apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the means for transmitting comprises a member of the group of a personal computer, mainframe, and data processor.

20. Database apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the geographic vicinity comprises spatial detail of the items of interest.

21. Database apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the geographic vicinity comprises a map of the items of interest in the selected category and selected geographic vicinity.

22. Database apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising data representing the information.

23. Database apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the information comprises additional detail for at least one of the items of interest, and further comprising means for communicating the additional detail to the remote port upon receipt of a signal indicating that a user has selected one of the items of interest.

24. Database apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the information comprises an advertisement associated with at least one of the items of interest, and further comprising means for communicating the advertisement to the remote port.

25. Database apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the information comprises a plurality of discrete geographic vicinities, and further comprising means for hierarchically storing and accessing any of the discrete vicinities in response to user inputs at the remote port.

26. Remote access port for remotely accessing a selected category of items of interest in a selected geographic vicinity from a database, the database being of the type which stores information about a plurality of items of interest, the information including, for each of the items of interest, a geographical vicinity, positional coordinates that locate the vicinity, and at least one associated category, the remote access port comprising

(A) a communications link for communicating between a user of the remote access port and the database, and

(B) means for generating a request signal representative of a selected category and a selected geographic vicinity of the items of interest in response to inputs by the user, the remote access port having a user interface for accepting the inputs and for indicating to the user the